

the basis of backwardness, which helps the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Antyodaya Programme

5705. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the State where Antyodaya Programme is being implemented;

(b) whether the Union Government have been providing financial assistance for this programme; and

(c) if so, the amount allocated to each State during each of the last three years under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIONS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) At present Antyodaya Programme is being implemented only in Himachal Pradesh where it was launched during 1990-91. Under guidelines covering Integrated Rural Development Programme also Antyodaya Approach i. e. assisting the poorest of the poor on priority basis is prescribed in respect of all the State/UTs.

(b) and (c). No Central assistance is being provided to Himachal Pradesh for Antyodaya Programme because it falls within the State Sector.

[English]

Loans/Grants to Rajasthan

5706. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-

GAVA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Union Government of giving loans/grants to States;

(b) whether loan/grant pattern of Central assistance to non-special category States is unfavourable to Rajasthan;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to include Rajasthan in special category States for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATIONS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The loan-grant ratio of formula-based Central assistance for Special Category States is 10.90 and for Non-Special Category States it is 70.30.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. The grant ratio of 30 percent in case of Non-Special Category States, including Rajasthan, was approved to provide for estimated revenue part of the Plan expenditure while the grant ratio of 90% in case of Special Category States was approved in view of their weak resource base. Since the State of Rajasthan does not have handicaps faced by the Special Category States, there is no proposal to include Rajasthan in the Special Category States.